

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Six Nights

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



AT through SNP, average 17 miles per day

AT - One way

Level: Experienced or Advanced

Total Length: 121.1 miles

Trip Description: AT through Shenandoah NP with Doyles and Jones waterfalls: Wolfe to Denton

Entry: 105 MP - Rockfish Gap/South Entrance

Exit: North AT/Tom Floyd Boundary

Map(s): PATC #9 - 11 All Districts

North District; East side; Route # 601

Day One

Campsite: AT (3F) Jarman Gap - Rockfish Gap * - backcountry

12.3 miles (plus 0.2 if you still need to pick up permit)

Hike north on Appalachian Trail (AT) 12 miles from the Paul C. Wolfe Shelter.

Obtain your free and required backcountry permit at the self-registration station on the AT just north of Rockfish Gap.

Turn left toward Calf Mountain Hut, hiking 0.3 mile.

Camp at the hut.

Day Two

Campsite: Jones Run Trail - backcountry

17.6 miles

Return to the AT, 0.3 mile and hike north 14.8 miles.

Turn right onto Jones Run Trail and hike downhill 2.5 miles, enjoying a 42' waterfall.

At the junction of Jones and Doyles, hike downstream to find a place to camp.

Day Three

Campsite: AT (2E) Bearfence Mtn- Swift Run * - backcountry

18.5 miles

Hike uphill on Doyles River Trail 2.2 miles, viewing two falls – 63' and 28'.

Turn right onto the AT and hike north 16.2 miles.

Turn left to Hightop Hut, hiking 0.1 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

Day Four

Campsite: Central District developed areas - campground or cabin

20.1 miles

Return to the AT, 0.1 mile and hike north 19.7 miles.

Either register to camp at Big Meadows Campground, or stay in Big Meadows Lodge.

Day Five

Campsite: AT (1D) Beahms Gap - Rt 211 * - backcountry

20 miles

Return to the AT, about 0.3 mile and hike north 19.5 miles.

Turn right to Pass Mountain Hut, hiking 0.2 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

Day Six

Campsite: AT (1B) Gravel Spr - Elkwallow Gap * - backcountry

13.7 miles

Return to the AT, 0.2 mile and hike north 13.3 miles.

Turn left to Gravel Springs Hut, hiking 0.2 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

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Day Seven

18.9 miles

Return to the AT, 0.2 mile and hike north 18.7 miles to the Denton Shelter.

Notes

Start at Paul C. Wolfe Shelter, entry into Shenandoah National Park at Rockfish Gap.
Finish at Denton Shelter, exit Shenandoah National Park at Possums Rest.

Unless you are a thru-hiker, do not plan your trip along the AT at Shenandoah NP from mid-May through mid-July! While the AT in the park is always busy, this is when the north-bound thru-hikers come through Shenandoah and there will not be any camping available at the huts.